



Use of Cattle Legally Imported from Canada, Mexico, or Other Third Free Countries within the EV Program for Japan

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The information below clarifies the eligibility of cattle legally imported from Canada, Mexico, and other Third Free Countries. The requirements for these cattle are outlined in the *FSIS Export Requirements for Japan*. The requirements must be addressed within a slaughter facility's documented QSA-EV Program for Japan.

1 Canada:

Cattle legally imported from Canada that meet the following requirements are eligible to be included in the QSA-EV Program for Japan:

- 1.1 Cattle must be 20 months of age or younger at the time of slaughter.
- 1.2 Cattle must be traceable to live animal production records. Verification activities for age requirements must be conducted at the slaughter, feedlot, and producer levels as required by the submitted QSA Program. Records used to verify this requirement must meet either individual animal age verification or group age verification as defined in ARC 1030J Procedure, section 5.2.1.1 and 5.2.1.2, respectively.
 - 1.2.1 If the birth dates of the cattle are presented to an approved QSA-EV Program for Japan and verified to meet the requirements of 5.2.1.1 or 5.2.1.2 by the government of Canada, then these cattle are eligible for inclusion into the QSA-EV Program for Japan. The birth date must be the actual birth date (month, day, year). An approximate or estimated age is not acceptable.
 - 1.2.2 Cattle that do not meet the requirements of 5.2.1.1 or 5.2.1.2 **can not** be presented for selection through age verification through carcass evaluation (A40 physiological maturity or younger) as defined in ARC 1030J Procedure, section 5.2.2. Facilities that receive Canadian cattle for slaughter, either for direct slaughter or from a feedlot, that do not meet requirements of 5.2.1.1 or 5.2.1.2 must include a segregation process in their approved QSA-EV Program for Japan to ensure that carcasses are not presented to the USDA for age verification through carcass evaluation.

2 Mexico:

Cattle legally imported from Mexico are eligible to be included in the QSA-EV Program for Japan. Cattle must be 20 months of age or younger at the time of slaughter using either one of methods outlined in ARC 1030J Procedure, section 5.2.1 or 5.2.2.

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3 Other Third Free Countries:

Cattle legally imported from the third free countries listed, other than Mexico, and raised in USA and that meet the following requirements are eligible to be included in the QSA-EV Program for Japan:

- 3.1 Cattle must be 20 months of age or younger at the time of slaughter.
- 3.2 Cattle must be traceable to live animal production records. Verification activities for age requirements must be conducted at the slaughter, feedlot, and producer levels as required by the submitted QSA Program. Records used to verify this requirement must meet individual animal age verification as defined in ARC 1030J Procedure, section 5.2.1.1.
 - 3.2.1 Cattle that do not meet the requirements of 5.2.1.1 **can not** be presented for selection through age verification through carcass evaluation (A40 physiological maturity or younger) as defined in ARC 1030J Procedure, section 5.2.2. Facilities that receive cattle from third free countries and raised in the USA that do not meet requirements of 5.2.1.1 must include a segregation process in their approved QSA-EV Program for Japan to ensure that carcasses are not presented to the USDA for age verification through carcass evaluation.